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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week Ending November 17, 1944

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Apples - The movement of apples, 25,098 cars, has moved upward to a 46 percent increase over 1943 shipments to date, but the daily average this week dropped to 303 cars compared with 324 cars for last week.

Wholesale prices at the close of the week for Jonathans, Delicious, Ortleys, Winesaps and Newtowns, ranged from \$3.40 to \$3.73 per box for extra fancy, fancy or combination extra fancy and fancy packs.

Grapes - 22,013 cars of grapes have been shipped this season to date, 821 cars more than shipments for 1943 to the same date.

Emperor grapes in 28-lb lugs, were quoted at the end of the week on the wholesale market at \$4.25 to \$4.75 per lug. Malagas and Rebiers were quoted as low as \$3.25 per 28-lb lug of good quality stock.

Persimmons - California persimmons continued to move into the wholesale markets, and total shipments at the close of the week were 30 cars, compared with 75 cars in 1943. Truck shipments moved in fairly heavy volume and good stock was quoted on the wholesale markets at 7 to 10 cents per pound.

Potatoes - F.o.b. shipping point sales on Idaho Falls District U.S. No.1 Russet potatoes, less transportation charges, were \$2.49 per 100-lbs. On the wholesale markets in the Northwest, Oregon and Klamath Russets closed the week at \$3.00 to \$3.30 per 100-lbs. for U.S. No.1 stock. U.S. No.1 Long Whites were \$2.90 to \$3.00 per 100-lbs, and in the Southwest U.S. No.1 Size A Long Whites were \$3.50 to \$3.65, and Idaho Russets U.S. No.1 Size A \$3.30 to \$3.37 per 100-lb bag.

Daily shipments of potatoes within the United States for the past week averaged 693 cars, and total shipments to date are 142,398 cars, 89 percent of the total shipments for 1943 to the same date. Shipments from Idaho to date total 13,846 cars, 99 percent of the shipments from there in 1943. On the basis of the total crop estimated for 1944, it appears that approximately 40 percent of the Idaho crop has been moved to date.

Lettuce - Total carlot movement of lettuce to date amounts to 6,871 cars compared with 5,335 cars to the same date in 1943 which represents a 29 percent increase. The daily carlot movement for the past seven days is 243, compared with a daily average of 157 cars for the previous 7 days.

On the wholesale markets in the Northwest good quality lettuce in crates of 4 dozen heads each closed the week at \$4.50 to \$4.95 each, while on the California markets the range for the same grade stock was \$3.50 to \$4.10 per crate.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Butter supplies for civilian use continued downward during the week and reached a new low. Most dealers, including the retail dealers, have made arrangements for sales rationing or limitation, and heavier demands have been made upon margarine and other substitutes for butter. Despite additional milk supplies resulting from better pasture conditions in a portion of the milk shed, a further swing from butter manufacture to other milk products has continued.

Eggs - The demand for eggs continued in excess of available supplies, particularly for the Large Grade A size. Prices have also continued upward on all grades, but that on Large U.S. Grade B has risen more rapidly than on the other grades, narrowing the gap between Large Grade A and Large Grade B considerably toward the end of the week so that the differential ranges from 5 cents to 16 cents per dozen on the West Coast markets in place of the 9 to 25 cent range of a week previous. It is expected that the upswing in production may be in evidence within the next eight or ten weeks.

Poultry - Supplies of turkeys on the poultry market remain very much below the Thanksgiving season demand by the civilian trade in all markets except Seattle, where there appears to be a fair supply of turkeys over 20 pounds. In most other markets, while receipts are in fair volume, most of the receipts are being taken up by the Army. As the result of the limited supply and heavy demands, prices are pressing the full ceiling at all levels.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle - Cattle receipts on the four western livestock markets for the past week totalled 18,364 head, 40 per cent below receipts for the previous week, while on the twelve principal markets of the United States there were 267,000 head, an increase of 23 per cent above the previous week.

Prices on the western markets were generally 25 to 50 cents above those for the previous week, and the top price quoted for fed steers was \$15.00 per hundred-weight. An increase both as to price and receipts on the western markets for calves was also recorded at the end of the week, and the top price quoted for vealers was \$14.00.

Hogs - Receipts of hogs on the twelve principal markets at the close of this week totalled 365,000 head, and on the western markets 14,913 head, being increases of 13.5 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively above the previous week's receipts. Prices on the heavy weights were about 25 cents above the prices at the beginning of the week, and top prices quoted for barrows and gilts, 180 to 270 pounds, were mostly \$15.75.

Sheep - Prices on sheep for the western markets averaged about the same for the past week as for the previous week. However, in the northwestern markets they were up approximately 25 cents, while on the San Francisco market prices dropped an average of 25 cents. Top prices on medium to good lambs were \$13.50 to \$14.50 and on choice lambs, \$15.00. Receipts for the past week on the western markets totalled 29,001 head, 57 per cent above receipts for the previous week, and receipts on the twelve principal markets totalled 288,800 head, 23 per cent above the receipts for the previous week. November 15th reports released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate that lamb feeding in the western states for the coming year will be reduced below that of last year, especially in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, California, Oregon, and Washington.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice - Rice harvesting in California has progressed very well as the result of clear weather and drying wind, following the heavy rain storms. It is estimated that harvesting will be completed near the 1st of December.

Reports indicate that supplies of rough rice in the field are very low and that bidding by mills, in the producing areas, is at full ceiling prices.

Wheat - Wheat prices and trading in wheat, as the result of the War Food Administration announcement of a program to facilitate the exportation of wheat and wheat flour in accordance with the provisions contained in the Surplus Property Act of 1944, were rather irregular in most of the markets during the past week, and at the end of the week were somewhat lower. In the western markets, the announcement had little affect although there was a general advance in the price of Soft White and Hard Winter wheat of 1 to 1-1/2 cents per bushel. Cash bid prices on these wheats closed a week at \$1.52-1/2 per bushel. Rail shipping facilities, particularly in the northwest, are short, and the situation is considered to be very acute.

Mill Feeds - The demand for mill feeds in the West were slightly less urgent at the end of the week, following the warm western rains and improved pasture conditions. Prices, however, remained at ceiling levels.

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